

(b) and (c) A Task Force on Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) has been constituted to enable quick and coordinated decision making and to provide an appropriate policy framework for the development of investment regions of requisite scale and level of facilities, with the involvement of world class developers and investors, in the field of petroleum, chemicals and petrochemicals. The policy is at the draft stage and locations would be considered in terms of the Policy. A definite time limit has not been fixed at this stage.

World Medicine Situation Report 2004

†1826. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has drawn towards the World Medicine Situation Report 2004 of WHO;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact as per the said report the prices of medicines in India are drastically higher;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the assessment at Government level with regard to higher prices of these medicines in terms of percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The World Medicines Situation 2004, report of the World Health Organisation has been seen. From the contents of this report it has been observed that no comparable data on prices of medicines in India *vis-a-vis* other countries is available on the basis of which it may be said that the prices of medicines in India are drastically higher.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b), as above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.